

OCTOBER No.33

QUALITY
COMICS
PUBLICATION

L.C.D.
10

BLACKHAWK

52

BIG FULL WIDTH
PAGES

10c



BETRAYAL!
THE
BLACKHAWKS
ARE TRAPPED IN THE
FORBIDDEN CITY OF DABAT!



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

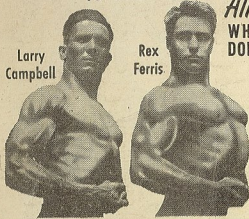
Which of these 2 one time WEAKLINGS PAID only a Few Cents?

to become an

"All-Around" HE-MAN at Home
WHICH ONE PAID HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS TO TRAIN AT MY SIDE?

Larry Campbell

Rex Ferris



Rex Ferris, like you, paid only a few cents to start building into a champion all around He Man!

Rex mailed me a coupon as below. He was a skinny bag of bones. Today he is tops in athletics, strength, business.

Larry Campbell paid me hundreds of dollars to train at my side years ago. Now you can start building into an All Around He Man right at home with these same progressive power secrets for only a few cents—just as Rex Ferris did!

AMAZING
get acquainted offer!
Now All 5 Famous Jowett Complete Muscle Building Courses
YOUR LAST CHANCE only **10c**
Instead of \$1.00
FREE MY PHOTO BOOK OF FAMOUS STRONG MEN!

"The Jowett System is the greatest in the world!" says R. F. Kelly, Physical Director, Atlantic City.

Let's Go, Pal! I'll prove I can make YOU too

an **"ALL-AROUND" HE-MAN**

FAST—or it won't cost you a cent—
says George F. Jowett—World's Greatest Body Builder

HOW YOU CAN BE A WINNER AT ANYTHING YOU TACKLE WITH **PROGRESSIVE POWER**



PROVE IT TO YOURSELF IN ONE NIGHT

Send only 10c for my 5 easy-to-follow, picture-packed courses now in 1 complete volume "How to Become a Muscular He-Man." Try it for one night. Experience the thrilling strength that surges through your muscles.

ENJOY MY "PROGRESSIVE POWER" STRENGTH SECRETS! GIVE ME 10 EASY MINUTES A DAY—WITHOUT STRAIN!

I'll teach you the "Progressive Power Method" through which I rebuilt myself from a physical wreck the doctors condemned to die at 15, to the holder of more strength records than any other living athlete or teacher! "Progressive Power" has proven its ability to build the strongest, handsomest men in the world. And I stand ready to show you on a money back basis—that no matter how flabby or puny you are, I can do the same for you right in your own home. Let me prove I can add inches to your arms, broaden your shoulders, give you a man-sized chest, powerful legs and a Rock-like back—in fact, power pack your whole body so quickly it will amaze you! Yes, I'll jam you with power and self-confidence to master any situation—to win popularity—and to get ahead on the job! Through my proven secrets I bring to life new power in you inside and out, until YOU are fully satisfied you are the man you want to be.

BUILD A BODY YOU WILL BE PROUD OF...

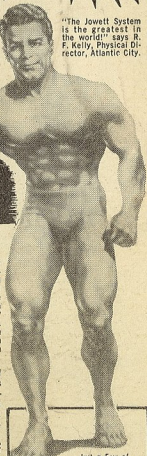
10 DAY TRIAL!

Think of it—all five of these famous courses now in one picture-packed volume for only 10c. If you're not delighted with this famous muscle-building guide—if you don't actually FEEL results within ONE WEEK, send it back and your money will be promptly refunded!

FREE! Jowett's Photo Book of Famous Strong Men!

This amazing book, "Nerves of Steel, Muscles of Iron," has guided thousands of weaklings to muscular power. Packed with photos of miracle men of might and muscle who started perhaps weaker than you are. Read the thrilling adventures of Jowett in strength that inspired his pupils to follow him. They'll show you the best way to might and muscle. Send for FREE gift book of PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG MEN.

Jowett Institute of Physical Culture
Dept. Q-010 230 Fifth Ave., N. Y. C.



Just a Few of the Records of
George F. Jowett

whom experts call the "Champion of Champions." • World's welterweight wrestling champion at 17 • World's weight lifting champion at 19 • Reputed to have the strongest arms in the world • Four times winner of the world's most perfectly developed body... plus many other world records!



I am making a drive for thousands of new friends fast—REGARDLESS OF COST! So get NOW My 5 (valued at \$5 each), Muscle Building Courses. All in 1 great complete volume for only **10c** PACKED WITH HOW-TO-DO-IT PICTURES! Start at once to improve your physique by following Jowett's simple, easy method of muscle building.



JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL CULTURE
230 Fifth Ave., Dept. Q-010 New York 1, N. Y.



FREE GIFT COUPON!

DEPT. Q-010

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL CULTURE
230 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

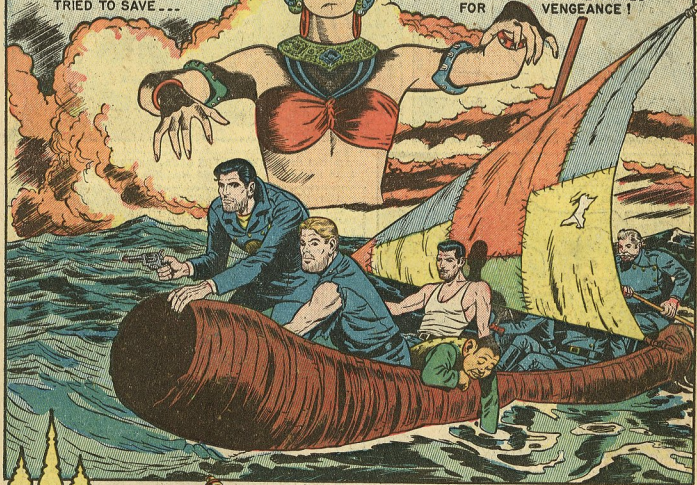
George F. Jowett
Dear George: Please send by return mail, prepaid FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men, plus all 5 Muscle Building Courses: 1. Molding a Mighty Chest, 2. Molding a Mighty Arm, 3. Molding a Mighty Grip, 4. Molding a Mighty Back, 5. Molding Mighty Legs—Now all in One Volume "How to Become a Muscular He-Man." ENCLOSED Find 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

NAME _____ AGE _____
(Please Print Plainly, Include Zone Number)
ADDRESS _____ NO C.O.D.'s
CITY _____ ZONE & STATE _____

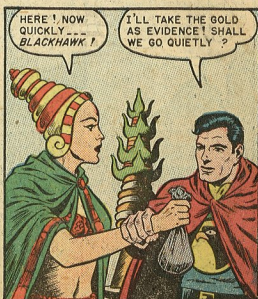
BLACKHAWK

IS THIS THE END OF THE
MIGHTY BLACKHAWKS? BETRAYED,
TRAPPED, BRANDED AS BUTCHERS
BY THE VERY FRIENDS THEY
TRIED TO SAVE...

LEFT TO DIE WHERE NONE COULD HELP
THEM! YET NO ONE ELSE ON EARTH
COULD STOP THE EVIL BEAUTY, FLAME,
FROM SMASHING HALF THE WORLD
FOR VENGEANCE!



6
OUR
STRANGE
STORY BEGINS
YEARS AGO
IN THE
FORBIDDEN
CITY OF
DABAT, HIGH
IN THE
WORLD'S MOST
INACCESSIBLE
MOUNTAINS
...





YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT TO BRIBE A BEGGAR WAS REPORTED TO THE DOGA, FLAME, AND HE SENT FOR THE BLACKHAWKS!

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME! KHALI! HELP!



I WILL TAKE CARE OF BLACK-HAWK, FLAME!

WELL, WELL! I HEARD YOU TWO OUTCASTS HAD JOINED FORCES!



YII!

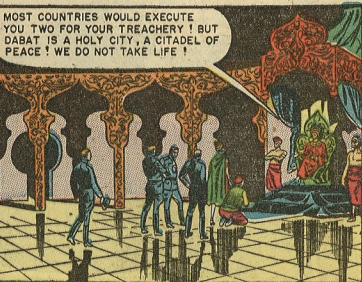
JUST SPEAK UP, LITTLE MAN! WOULD YOU RATHER LOSE YOUR KNIFE OR ALL YOUR TEETH?



GOOD WORK! COME ALONG TO THE DOGA'S CHAMBERS, GANG! HE'S WAITING THERE TO CLOSE THIS CASE!

TIENS! HOW ONE SO LOVELY COULD BE SO TREACHEROUS!

IN THE CHAMBERS OF THE DOGA, RULER OF DABAT AND HIGH PRIEST OF A HUNDRED MILLION BELIEVERS!



MOST COUNTRIES WOULD EXECUTE YOU TWO FOR YOUR TREACHERY! BUT DABAT IS A HOLY CITY, A CITADEL OF PEACE! WE DO NOT TAKE LIFE!



YOU WILL BE SET FREE AT THE BORDER! NONE WILL HARM YOU UNLESS YOU TRY TO RE-ENTER DABAT!

THE BORDER? YOU CAN'T! WE'LL DIE IN THE MOUNTAINS! THOSE PASSES ARE TWENTY THOUSAND FEET HIGH! WE DON'T KNOW THE TRAILS!



YOUR FATE OUTSIDE DABAT IS IN THE LAP OF THE GODS! TAKE THEM TO THE BORDER, GUARDS! GIVE THEM FOOD AND WARM CLOTHING!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS... ALL OF YOU! I'LL SURVIVE SOMEHOW AND MAKE YOU PAY!

GRIM JUSTICE, DOGA, BUT FAIR! TROUBLE HERE IN DABAT MIGHT SET ALL ASIA AFLAME! I AM GLAD WE COULD HELP YOU!

MY FRIENDS, THE BLACKHAWKS, WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME IN DABAT! I'M SORRY YOU WON'T STAY ON FOR A FEAST!



THANKS ANYHOW! WITH UNREST SPREADING OVER THE WORLD, WE CAN'T RELAX A MOMENT! I HOPE DABAT'S DEFENSES ARE STRONG!

THE MOUNTAINS ARE DABAT'S DEFENSES, BLACKHAWK... AND THEY ARE STRONGER THAN EVIL!



THAT LANDING PASS IS THE ONLY WAY INTO DABAT, BLACKHAWK! AND OUR FEW CANNON COMMAND THAT PASS! ONLY YOUR PLANES MAY ENTER!

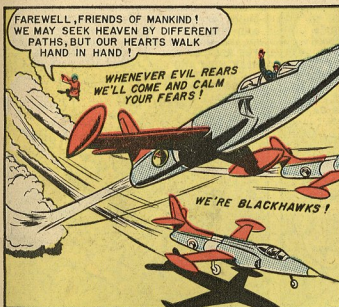
IF TROUBLE COMES, SEND FOR US, DOGA! WE CAN BE HERE IN A MATTER OF HOURS!



FAREWELL, FRIENDS OF MANKIND! WE MAY SEEK HEAVEN BY DIFFERENT PATHS, BUT OUR HEARTS WALK HAND IN HAND!

WHENEVER EVIL REARS WE'LL COME AND CALM YOUR FEARS!

WE'RE BLACKHAWKS!



WHILE HIGH IN THE FORBIDDING MOUNTAINS...

I...CAN'T GO ON! MUST...REST!

YOU SNIVELING QUITTER! WE CAN'T REST NOW OR WE'LL FREEZE!



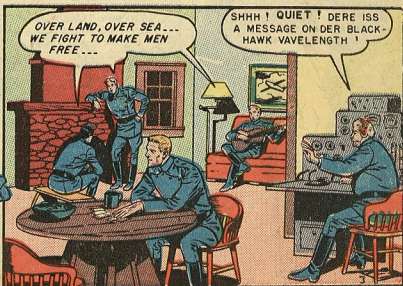
KEEP GOING OR I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL LET NOTHING KEEP ME FROM THE DAY OF VENGEANCE! I'LL MAKE THEM PAY... ALL OF THEM!



NEARLY THREE YEARS PASS, THE INCIDENT LONG FORGOTTEN IN THE ADVENTUROUS CAREERS OF THE BLACKHAWKS! THEN, ONE NIGHT...

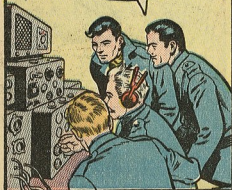
OVER LAND, OVER SEA... WE FIGHT TO MAKE MEN FREE...

SHHH! QUIET! DERE ISS A MESSAGE ON DER BLACKHAWK VAVELLENGTH!



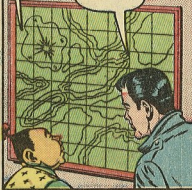
HELP! BLACKHAWKS... MOGRE ISLAND... WHOLE WORLD IN DANGER! COME QUICKLY, BEFORE THEY... ARGHHH! CLICK!

BEFORE ZEY WHAT? HE MAKE ZE DYING GURGLE AND ZEN HE GOES OFF ZE AIR!



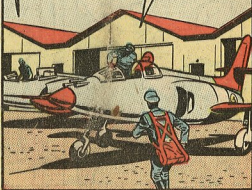
IS NO MOGLE ISLAND ON MAP! MAYBE SOMEBODY PLAY TLIKS!

MAYBE, BUT WE CAN'T TAKE CHANCES! MOGRE IS A VOLCANIC ISLAND THAT APPEARED SINCE THAT CHART WAS MADE! WE'D BETTER CHECK!



IT'S ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED MILES DUE EAST! MOGRE WOULD BE A PERFECT HIDEOUT FOR SOME GROUP PLOTTING TROUBLE!

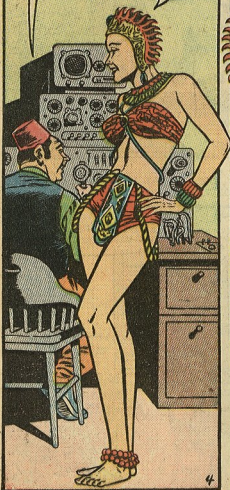
OR SOME GROUP PLOTTING TO TRAP US! BUT THAT'S BEEN TRIED BY EXPERTS! AS YOU SAY, BLACKHAWK, WE CAN'T IGNORE AN APPEAL!



IF THE BLACKHAWKS BUT KNEW IT... THE RADIO MESSAGE CAME FROM A DIFFERENT ISLAND, A THOUSAND MILES BEYOND!

HOW DID I DO, IMITATING A DYING MAN ON THE RADIO, FLAME?

PERFECT, KHALI! YOUR ACTING ABILITY IS SECOND ONLY TO YOUR GENIUS WITH BEAMED RADIO TRANSMISSION!



I WORKED THREE YEARS TO PLAN A TRAP THAT WOULD DESTROY THE BLACKHAWKS AND DABAT, TOO! REVENGE WILL BE SWEET!

AND PROFITABLE! YOUR SCHEME IS SO PERFECT, FLAME, THAT NOTHING CAN STOP IT NOW!

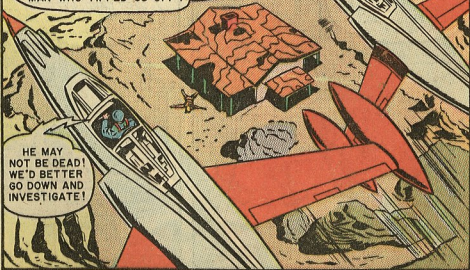


CHUCK, PEEL OFF AND BUZZ THE ISLAND WITH ME! THE REST OF YOU STAY HIGH AND KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR TROUBLE!

I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING WE'RE STICKING OUR NECKS OUT, BLACKHAWK, BUT HERE WE GO!



HEY, BLACKHAWK! ISN'T THAT A CAMOUFLAGED BUILDING, WITH A BODY LYING IN FRONT? IT COULD BE THE MAN WHO TIPPED US OFF!



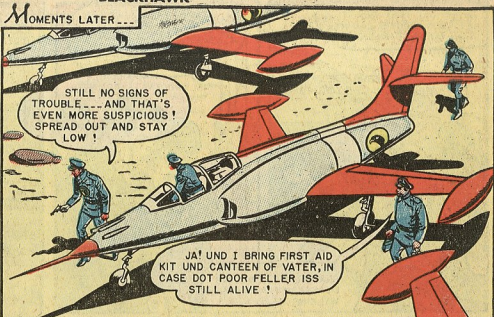
HE MAY NOT BE DEAD! WE'D BETTER GO DOWN AND INVESTIGATE!

FOLLOW US IN, GANG, AND LEAVE YOUR JETS IDLING FOR QUICK TAKEOFF IN CASE OF TROUBLE !



MOMENTS LATER ...

STILL NO SIGNS OF TROUBLE --- AND THAT'S EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS ! SPREAD OUT AND STAY LOW !



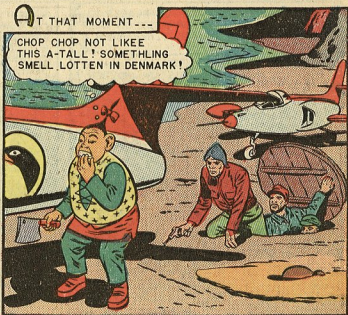
WELL, I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE ! A STRAW DUMMY !

AND THE BUILDING WE SAW FROM THE AIR IS PHONEY, TOO ! DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING YET ! THEY MAY BE BOOBY-TRAPPED !



AT THAT MOMENT ...

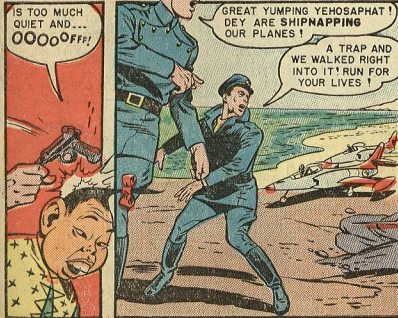
CHOP CHOP NOT LIKEE THIS A-TALL ! SOMETHING SMELL LOTTEN IN DENMARK !



IS TOO MUCH QUIET AND ...
OOOoOFF!

GREAT YUMPING YEHOSEPHAT ! DEY ARE SHIPNAPPING OUR PLANES !

A TRAP AND WE WALKED RIGHT INTO IT ! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES !



COCHON ! SONS OF PIGS ! COME BACK WEETH ZOSE PLANES !

HIT THE DIRT ! THEY MAY TURN OUR OWN GUNS ON US !





GONE! AND THAT MEANS...
HEY! SOMEBODY'S COMING
IN ON MY BELT RADIO!

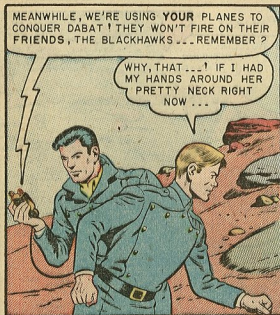
BLACKHAWK! CALLING
BLACKHAWK AND HIS
WALKING DEAD MEN!



THIS IS FLAME, BLACKHAWK!
REMEMBER? THE GIRL YOU
HELPED SEND OUT OF DABAT
TO DIE IN THE MOUNTAINS!
BUT KHALI AND I WOULDN'T
DIE!



WE LIVED ON HATE, BLACKHAWK, AND
THIS IS OUR VENGEANCE! THERE IS NO
FOOD OR WATER ON MOGRE ISLAND...
BUT YOU WON'T SUFFER! WATER IS
SEEPING TOWARD THE VOLCANO! IN
A FEW DAYS IT WILL BLOW UP THE
ISLAND AND EVERYTHING ON IT!
ISN'T THAT EXCITING?



MEANWHILE, WE'RE USING **YOUR** PLANES TO
CONQUER DABAT! THEY WON'T FIRE ON THEIR
FRIENDS, THE BLACKHAWKS...REMEMBER?

WHY, THAT...! IF I HAD
MY HANDS AROUND HER
PRETTY NECK RIGHT
NOW...



STOW IT, CHUCK! WE
CAN'T WASTE TIME OR
ENERGY ON ANYTHING
BUT CONSTRUCTIVE
PLANNING! ARE YOU
OKAY, CHOP CHOP?

OH, WOBBLY WOES! IF OKAY IS
HEAD FULL OF HURT AND STOMACH
FULL OF BUTTERFLIES, THEN CHOP
CHOP OKLAY!



VOT ARE CHANCES OFF A
PASSING PLANE OR SHIP?

FRANKLY,
ONE IN MILLIONS, HENDRICKSON!
MOGRE IS FAR OFF ANY SHIPPING
LANE OR PLANE ROUTE! IT
ISN'T EVEN CHARTED!



TIENS! IT WAS A
MERRY LIFE WHILE
EET LASTED! AT LEAST,
ZE BLACKHAWKS WEEEL
DIE AS THEY LEEVED
--- TOGETHER!

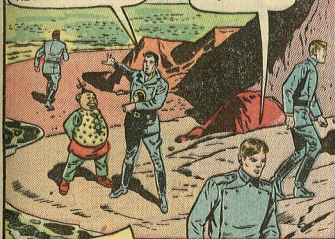
CORRECTION... WE'LL
DIE AS WE LIVED...
TRYING! WE'VE GOT
A FULL CANTEN OF
WATER AND PLenty
OF COURAGE! LET'S
GET TO WORK!



WE'VE GOT TO LIVE
... NOT JUST FOR
OURSELVES BUT TO
SAVE DABAT! FLAME
WAS RIGHT! THE
DOGA WILL LET OUR
PLANES LAND WITH-
OUT QUESTION!

SPREAD OUT AND COMB THE ISLAND! IF YOU FIND ANYTHING IMPORTANT, FIRE A SINGLE SHOT! CHOP CHOP, YOU COME ALONG WITH ME!

FAT LOT WE'LL FIND! THE ISLAND'S SOLID ROCK AND TOO NEW FOR TREES OR GRASS AND TOO HARD TO DIG FOR FRESH WATER! OH, WELL----



HOURS LATER---

NOT A THING, BLACK-HAWK! LET'S FACE IT! THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD FOR US! NO WATER...NO FOOD...!

YUST LOOK WHAT AY FOUND! BIRD'S EGGS IN A NEST UP DAS CLIFF! ANODDER NEST! HAD TWO BABIES!

A FISH-HAWK EGG! QUICK, OLAF! SHOW ME THAT NEST WITH THE YOUNG IN IT! WE MAY FEAST TONIGHT AFTER ALL!

NOT ON TWO BIRDS THAT ARE YUST BABIES! AY COULDN'T GET DAT HUNGRY!



THERE IS A SHORT WAIT! THEN ---



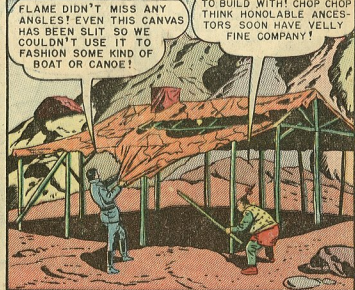
EEEEOW! YUMPING YUPITER! SHE DROPPED DAS FISH!

NOW! HI-YI YEAAA!

A FEW MINUTES LATER---

FLAME DIDN'T MISS ANY ANGLES! EVEN THIS CANVAS HAS BEEN SUIT SO WE COULDN'T USE IT TO FASHION SOME KIND OF BOAT OR CANOE!

AND LATH IS TOO LOTTEN TO BUILD WITH! CHOP CHOP THINK HONOLABLE ANCESTORS SOON HAVE VELLY FINE COMPANY!



YUMPING YUDAS, BLACKHAWK! I YUST DON'T GET DIS AT ALL!

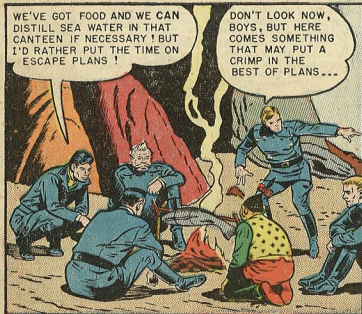
SHH! LIE LOW UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD! THEN WAVE YOUR ARMS AND YELL!



I KNEW A FISH-HAWK WOULD BE CATCHING FISH FOR HER YOUNG! ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS SCARE HER INTO DROPPING IT FOR US!

YIPSEE-DLOODLE! GLUB! CHOP CHOP BACK IN BLUSINESS AGAIN!

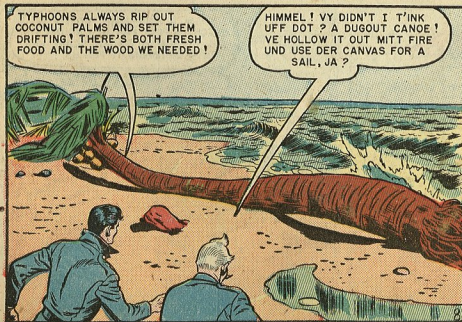




THROUGH A LONG NIGHT OF HOWLING FURY ---



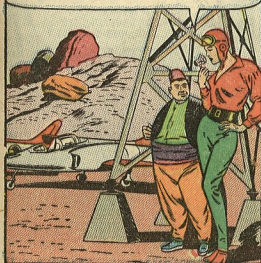
WITH THE CLEARING DAWN ---



A SHORT TIME LATER ---



WE TAKE OFF FOR DABAT TODAY! ANY MESSAGE FOR YOUR FRIEND, THE DOGA? I'M REALLY SORRY I CAN'T SEE YOUR FACES NOW! I'D ENJOY YOUR SUFFERING!

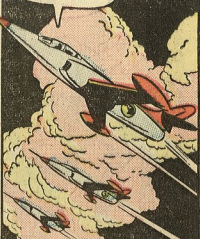


I'LL FLY THE FIRST PLANE...BLACKHAWK'S OWN SHIP! KHALI WILL FLY LEFT WING AND THE REST OF YOU FORM ON HIM!



WE ARE READY!

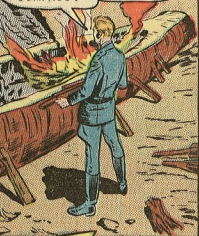
I'M SORRY WE'RE TOO FAR TO PICK UP THE BLACKHAWK BELT RADIOS! I CAN JUST IMAGINE THEIR WEAK, CROAKING PLEAS FOR HELP OR MERCY!



FOR ONCE, I'M GLAD WE DON'T HAVE TELEVISION! IF FLAME COULD SEE US, SHE MIGHT NOT BE SO GAY ABOUT HER VICTORY!



NOT TO BE A KILL-JOY, BLACKHAWK... BUT BETWEEN US AND BLACKHAWK ISLAND LIES FIVE HUNDRED MILES OF SHARK-INFESTED OCEAN... AND NO COMPASS!



I'M GLAD YOU REMINDED ME, CHUCK! TAKE ALL BUT ONE BELT RADIO APART AND SPLICE ALL THE WIRES TOGETHER!



I'M DUMB BUT WILLING! THEN WHAT?

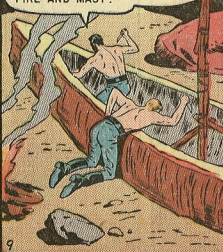
WELL, I'LL BE...! A DIRECTIONAL LOOP ANTENNA!



OUR SIGNAL BEAM AT BLACKHAWK ISLAND IS ALWAYS ON! WE SIMPLY SAIL TOWARD THE LOUDEST BEAM SIGNAL AND THERE WE ARE!

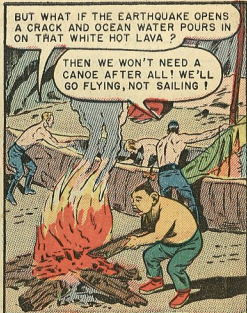
THAT NIGHT...

ANOTHER DAY OF DIGGING AND ZE CANOE WHEEL BE DEEP ENOUGH! ZE STORM BROUGHT PLENTY OF DREFTWOOD FOR FIRE AND MAST!

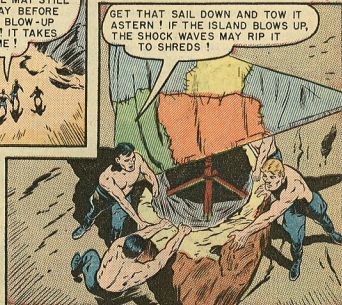


AND BY UNRAVELING THE CLOTHES ON THAT DUMMY AND ALL OUR JACKETS, WE GOT ENOUGH LINE TO LASH OUR MAST AND SAIL TOGETHER!

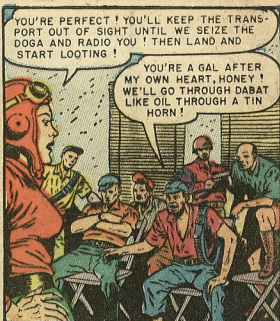
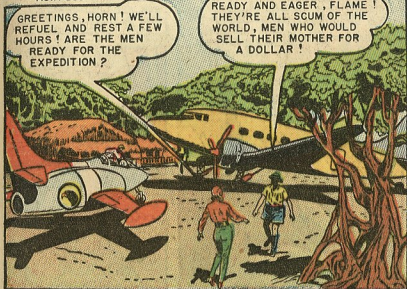




THROUGH THE TERRIFYING HOURS OF EARTHQUAKE AND EXPLOSION THEY BATTLE! BUT AT LAST---



MEANWHILE IN A JUNGLE AIRPORT, SOMEWHERE IN SOUTHERN ASIA ---



BUT LET'S SEE IF THE BLACKHAWKS WERE FINISHED BY THE TIDAL WAVE!



BLACKHAWK



YUMPING YEEPERS!
DAS RADIO ANTENNA
VAS SVEPT AWAY BY
DAS VAVE! NOW VE
ARE IN A YACKPOT!

SACRE NOM! EEF
EET EES NOT
ONE THEENG, EET
EES. ANOZAIR!



MAYBE WE CAN SALVAGE ENOUGH
WIRE FOR A SMALL ONE! IF WE
GET CLOSE ENOUGH, IT MIGHT
PICK UP OUR BEAM!

AS LONG
AS WE CAN SEE STARS OR
THE SUN, WE CAN NAVIGATE
REASONABLY CLOSE!



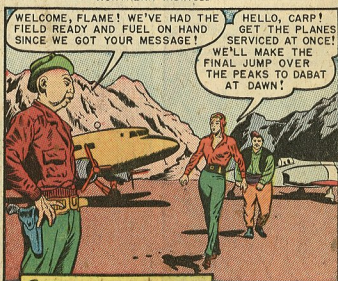
BUT IT SEEMS SO HOPE-
LESS! BY NOW FLAME
HAS PROBABLY LANDED
OUR PLANES AND SEIZED
DABAT!

NOT YET, CHUCK!
SHE'D STOP AT
LEAST TWICE FOR
REST AND REFUEL-
ING! SHE WON'T
HURRY, THINKING
WE'RE DESTROYED!



WHEE! BLACKHAWK'S BELT
BUCKLE MAKE FINE FISHEE-
HOOK! WE CAN EAT, DLINK AND
BE MELLY... FOR TOMOLLOW
THERE MAY BE FLIES!

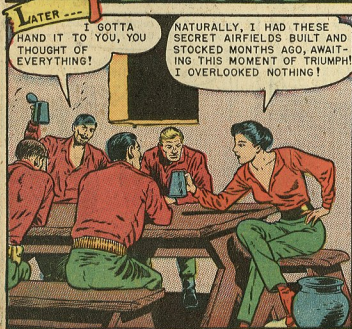
MEANWHILE, HIGH IN THE MOUNTAIN FASTNESSES OF
NORTHERN INDIA...



WELCOME, FLAME! WE'VE HAD THE
FIELD READY AND FUEL ON HAND
SINCE WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE!

HELLO, CARP!
GET THE PLANES
SERVICED AT ONCE!

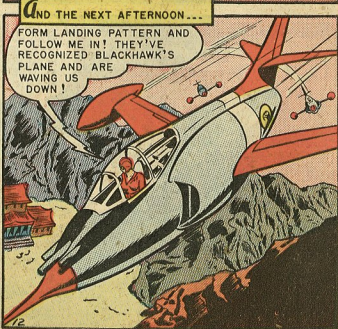
WE'LL MAKE
THE FINAL JUMP OVER
THE PEAKS TO DABAT
AT DAWN!



WATER...

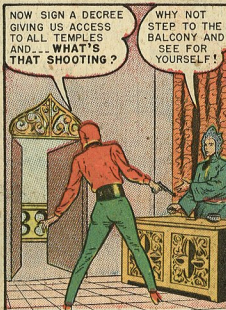
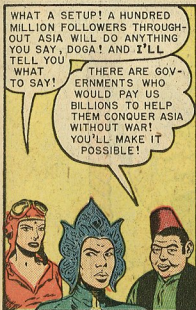
I GOTTA
HAND IT TO YOU, YOU
THOUGHT OF
EVERYTHING!

NATURALLY, I HAD THESE
SECRET AIRFIELDS BUILT AND
STOCKED MONTHS AGO, AWAIT-
ING THIS MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!
I OVERLOOKED NOTHING!



AND THE NEXT AFTERNOON...

FORM LANDING PATTERN AND
FOLLOW ME IN! THEY'VE
RECOGNIZED BLACKHAWK'S
PLANE AND ARE
WAVING US
DOWN!

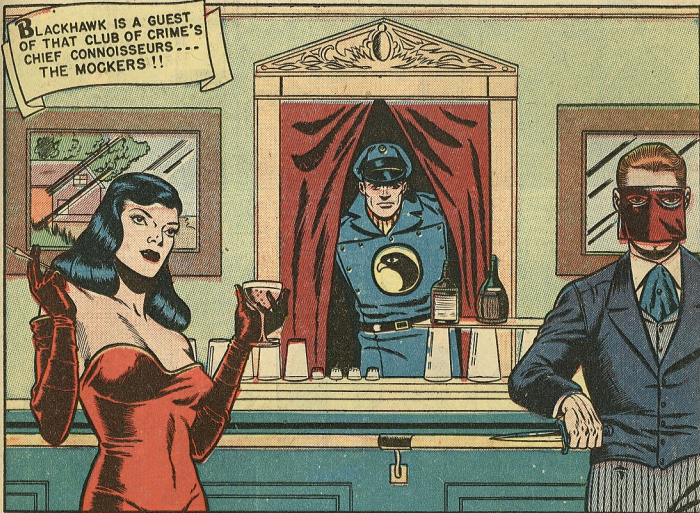


BLACKHAWK



BLACKHAWK

BLACKHAWK IS A GUEST
OF THAT CLUB OF CRIME'S
CHIEF CONNOISSEURS...
THE MOCKERS !!



A SQUADRON OF SWALLOW-SWIFT PLANES
IS READY TO LAND AT THE AIRPORT OF
CAPITAL HARBOR...

WE ANSWER EACH APPEAL
WITH HEARTS AS TRUE AS STEEL
... WE'RE BLACKHAWKS!

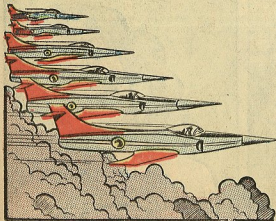
LATER, IN CAPITAL HARBOR
OFFICE OF AUTHORITY...

WE CAME AT YOUR
CALL, GOVERNOR!
YOU DIDN'T TELL
US WHAT THE
PERIL IS THAT
THREATENS!

I DARED NOT
LET ANYBODY
KNOW YOU WERE
BEING SUMMON-
ED! CAPITAL
HARBOR IS IN THE
GRIP OF A
MYSTERY CRIME
WAVE!

ALREADY THE CITY'S BADLY
SHAKEN BY THE TRIUMPHS OF
A POWERFUL GANG!
IF THE BLACKHAWKS
CANNOT HELP US...

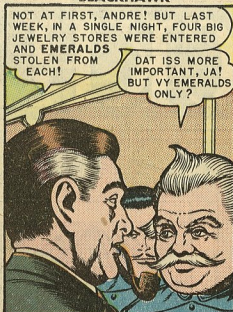
WE CAN
HELP,
GOVERNOR!
EXPLAIN!





IT BEGAN WITH A NIGHT OF PETTY CRIMES... THROUGHOUT THE TOWN SIX MEN NAMED ROBINSON HAD THEIR POCKETS PICKED! NONE OF THE ROBINSONS WERE RELATED!

ALLEZ DONC! ZAT EES AMUSING, OUI! BUT NOT SERIOUS!



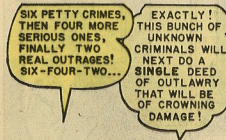
NOT AT FIRST, ANDRE! BUT LAST WEEK, IN A SINGLE NIGHT, FOUR BIG JEWELRY STORES WERE ENTERED AND EMERALDS STOLEN FROM EACH!

DAT ISS MORE IMPORTANT, JA! BUT VY EMERALDS ONLY?



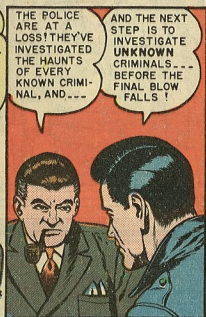
IF WE ONLY KNEW! THEN, LAST NIGHT, TWO LIBRARIES WERE BOMBED AND WRECKED --- FOR NO REASON ANYONE CAN SUGGEST!

THE MOTIVE MAY NOT APPEAR, BUT THIS IS A DEFINITE PROGRAM WITH A STRANGE SIGNIFICANCE!



SIX PETTY CRIMES, THEN FOUR MORE SERIOUS ONES, FINALLY TWO REAL OUTRAGES! SIX-FOUR-TWO...

EXACTLY! THIS BUNCH OF UNKNOWN CRIMINALS WILL NEXT DO A SINGLE DEED OF OUTLAWRY THAT WILL BE OF CROWNING DAMAGE!



THE POLICE ARE AT A LOSS! THEY'VE INVESTIGATED THE HAUNTS OF EVERY KNOWN CRIMINAL, AND---

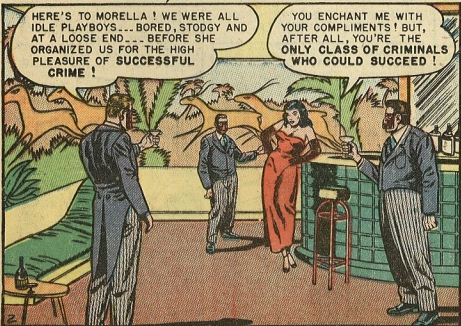
AND THE NEXT STEP IS TO INVESTIGATE UNKNOWN CRIMINALS... BEFORE THE FINAL BLOW FALLS!



MEANWHILE, IN CAPITAL HARBOR'S MOST EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT...

GENTLEMEN OF THE MOCKERS CLUB, WE MEET TO PLAN OUR NEXT AND MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY IN SEARCH OF THRILLS!

SPEAK, MORELLA! SO FAR YOU'VE SUCCESSFULLY GIVEN US THE THRILLS IN LIFE THAT WE THOUGHT WE'D NEVER FIND!



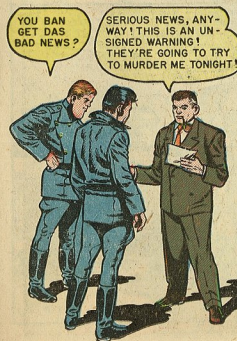
HERE'S TO MORELLA! WE WERE ALL IDLE PLAYBOYS... BORED, STODGY AND AT A LOOSE END... BEFORE SHE ORGANIZED US FOR THE HIGH PLEASURE OF SUCCESSFUL CRIME!

YOU ENCHANT ME WITH YOUR COMPLIMENTS! BUT, AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONLY CLASS OF CRIMINALS WHO COULD SUCCEED!



PROFESSIONAL OUTLAWS STEAL AND STRIKE FOR GAIN! THE POLICE KNOW HOW TO CATCH THEM! BUT WE NEED NO WEALTH AND THE POLICE DO NOT GUESS THAT OUR CRIMES ARE FOR PLEASURE ONLY!

BLACKHAWK



BLACKHAWK

AT THE QUIET RURAL ESTATE OF THE GOVERNOR ---



WHY DO YOU ANSWER THE DOOR, JANE? WHERE'S THE BUTLER?

HE'S SICK... OR DRUGGED! COME AND SEE HIM, SIR!



I'M A LITTLE BETTER THAN I WAS, SIR, BUT TOO WEAK TO MOVE! I DON'T KNOW IF I ATE ANYTHING THAT POISONED ME!

CHUCK, GO FIND THE COOK AND BRING HIM HERE!



BUT, IN THE KITCHEN ---

TROUBLE! DOOR BROKEN OPEN! COOKEE RUN AWAY!

DRAWN AWAY, MORE LIKELY! YOU CAN SEE THAT HE PUT UP A FIGHT IN HERE! WE'D BETTER REPORT TO BLACKHAWK!



I THINK THE LOCAL POLICE HAD BETTER BE NOTIFIED, BLACKHAWK!

THE PHONE'S DEAD... OUT OF ORDER! SOMEONE MUST DRIVE TO THE COUNTY SEAT AND CARRY THE NEWS!



DRIVE TO THE COUNTY SEAT, EH? BUT YOUR POOR CHAUFFEUR IS KNOCKED SENSELESS, AND THIS STATION WAGON IS THOROUGHLY STALLED!

I HAF JUST COME FROM DER GARAGE! DER ODDER CARS ISS ALSO ON DER FRITZ!



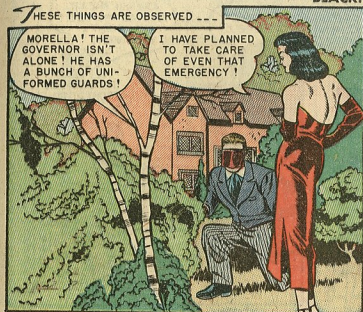
THE CRIMINALS KNEW I'D COME HERE! MY SERVANTS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH, ALL COMMUNICATIONS CUT!

I SUSPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS! THAT'S WHY WE CAME WITH YOU!



BUT WOULDN'T WE BE WISER TO HEAD FOR THE COUNTY SEAT ON FOOT?

PROBABLY THEY HOPE WE WILL... AND ARE WATCHING! SO WE'LL STAY HERE!



BLACKHAWK

INSIDE THE HOUSE...

I CAN SEE WHO'S RINGING THE BELL, THROUGH THE GLASS OF THE DOOR!

LET 'EM IN, JANE!

I BRING A FINAL WORD OF WARNING TO THE GOVERNOR!

STEP INTO THE DRAWING ROOM, MADAME! HE'S ALL ALONE!

RIGHT THERE...

AND ALL ALONE, JUST AS YOU SAID! ALL RIGHT, FRIENDS!

HERE WE ARE, ON TIME FOR OUR LITTLE TREAT!

GOVERNOR, WE SAID YOU'D BE KILLED TONIGHT... AND WE KEEP OUR PROMISE! STAND UP AND FACE IT!

CRIME IS OUR HOBBY, AND WE PROMISE OURSELVES THE PLEASURE OF A REALLY IMPORTANT SUCCESS...

YOU FLATTER ME, LADY! I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS SO IMPORTANT!

I NEVER SAW THIS MAN BEFORE IN MY LIFE! WHERE'S THE GOVERNOR?

WIPE OUT THIS FELLOW FIRST, AND THEN WE'LL GET THE GOVERNOR!

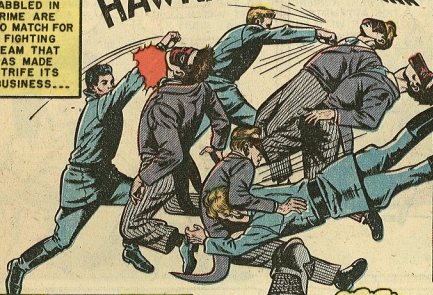
HAWKAANN!

THAT WAR CRY --- I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT! HE'S BLACKHAWK!



THE IDLERS WHO HAVE DABBLED IN CRIME ARE NO MATCH FOR A FIGHTING TEAM THAT HAS MADE STRIFE ITS BUSINESS...

HAWK AAAAAAAAAAAAA



BLACKHAWK



I'M SORRY, BLACKHAWK! SHE STUNNED ME! I DIDN'T SEE WHERE SHE WENT!

BUT I DID!



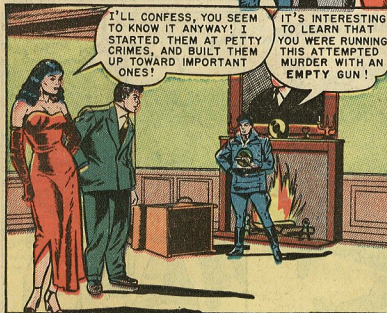
SHE TRIED TO HIDE BEHIND YOU, GOVERNOR!

SO I TURNED OUT TO BE SOME USE, AFTER ALL! I DIDN'T LIKE STAYING OUT OF THE FIGHT, ORDERS OR NO ORDERS!



WITHOUT THEIR MASKS, THESE MEN ARE RECOGNIZABLE! A BUNCH OF IDLE PLEASURE-SEEKERS! HOW DID THEY GET MIXED UP IN THIS?

IT WAS A CLUB OF OUTLAWS! WE DID IT FOR A THRILL --- WE'D USED UP ALL OTHER FORMS OF EXCITEMENT! MORELLA ORGANIZED US!



I'LL CONFESS, YOU SEEM TO KNOW IT ANYWAY! I STARTED THEM AT PETTY CRIMES, AND BUILT THEM UP TOWARD IMPORTANT ONES!

IT'S INTERESTING TO LEARN THAT YOU WERE RUNNING THIS ATTEMPTED MURDER WITH AN EMPTY GUN!



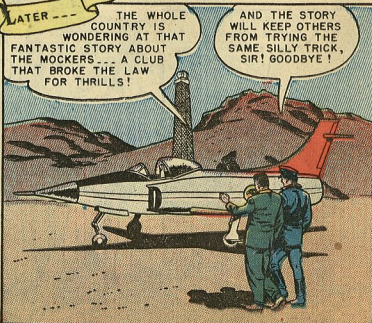
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR STOOGES WERE GOING TO DO THE KILLING! YOU'D JUST WATCH... IS THAT RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT! THEY'D KILL THE GOVERNOR, AND I'D KNOW ABOUT IT!



ONCE I HAD THEM AT MY MERCY, THEY'D ALL PAY OFF--- MONTH AFTER MONTH! MY SILENCE WOULD MAKE ME RICH! THAT'S WHY I ORGANIZED THIS STUPID CLUB OF CRIMINALS!

A SORDID CONFESSION, BUT AN INTERESTING ONE! LET'S SEND FOR THE LAW!



LATER --- THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS WONDERING AT THAT FANTASTIC STORY ABOUT THE MOCKERS... A CLUB THAT BROKE THE LAW FOR THRILLS!

AND THE STORY WILL KEEP OTHERS FROM TRYING THE SAME SILLY TRICK, SIR! GOODBYE!

BLACKHAWK

BLACKHAWK

UNION GLOBE
PRESIDENT LINCOLN
ASSASSINATED!!
KILLER ESCAPES
FROM CROWD
FROM THEATRE!!

DAILY TRIBUNE
DR. HOWARD BUNSEN
AWARDED KEY POST
NOTED PHYSICIST APPOINTED
CHAIRMAN OF NUCLEAR
PHYSICS COMMISSION

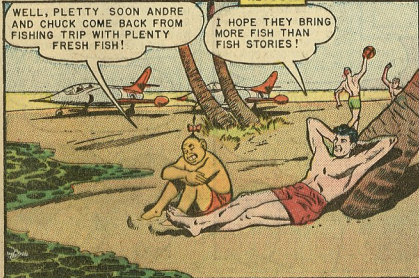
THE DRY TORTUGAS! THE STERILE, BARREN, PARCHED LITTLE ISLANDS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO SUDDENLY BECAME THE SCENE OF A MODERN PLOT AS DARING, STARK AND INFAMOUS AS THE FOUL CONSPIRACY WHICH BROUGHT THEM NOTORIETY IN THE CIVIL WAR DAYS! PAST MEETS PRESENT, AND INTO THE MELEE ZOOM THE DASHING BLACKHAWKS TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF TERROR ISLAND!



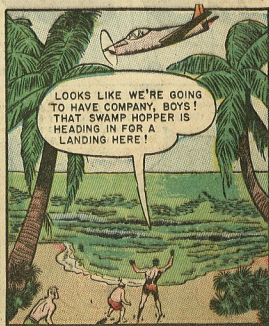
THE BLACKHAWKS RELAX FOR A WELL-EARNED VACATION ON THE TROPIC SANDS OF MARQUESA KEYS...

WELL, PLETTY SOON ANDRE AND CHUCK COME BACK FROM FISHING TRIP WITH PLENTY FRESH FISH!

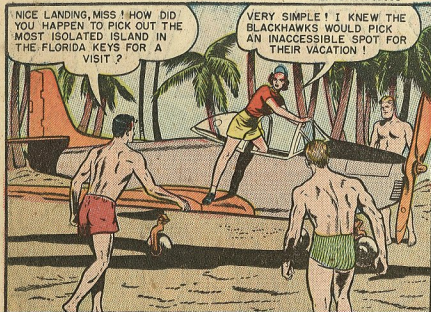
I HOPE THEY BRING MORE FISH THAN FISH STORIES!



LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMPANY, BOYS! THAT SWAMP HOPPER IS HEADING IN FOR A LANDING HERE!



BLACKHAWK



NICE LANDING, MISS! HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO PICK OUT THE MOST ISOLATED ISLAND IN THE FLORIDA KEYS FOR A VISIT?

VERY SIMPLE! I KNEW THE BLACKHAWKS WOULD PICK AN INACCESSIBLE SPOT FOR THEIR VACATION!



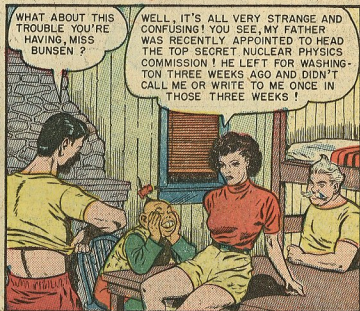
WH...??! CORA BUNSEN! I REMEMBER YOU! YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF DR. BUNSEN, THE FAMOUS PHYSICIST!

THAT'S RIGHT, BLACKHAWK! YOU HELPED MY FATHER AND ME OUT OF A JAM SOME TIME AGO, AND NOW WE'RE IN ANOTHER... MUCH WORSE!



HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO LOCATE US HERE?

I MADE AN URGENT PLEA TO THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS COMMISSION FOR YOUR FLIGHT PLANS AND THEY GAVE THEM TO ME!



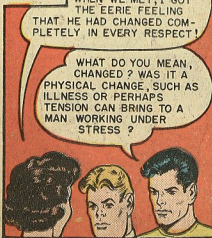
WHAT ABOUT THIS TROUBLE YOU'RE HAVING, MISS BUNSEN?

WELL, IT'S ALL VERY STRANGE AND CONFUSING! YOU SEE, MY FATHER WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED TO HEAD THE TOP SECRET NUCLEAR PHYSICS COMMISSION! HE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON THREE WEEKS AGO AND DIDN'T CALL ME OR WRITE TO ME ONCE IN THOSE THREE WEEKS!



IS IT UNUSUAL FOR HIM NOT TO CONTACT YOU?

YES! HE USUALLY CALLS OR WRITES EVERY DAY! AT ANY RATE I FINALLY CALLED HIM AND HIS VOICE SOUNDED VERY STRANGE AND UNREAL!



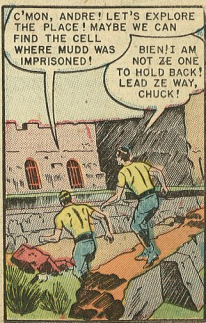
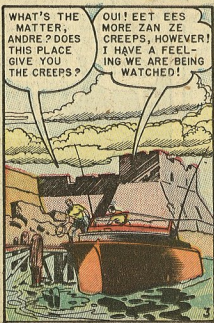
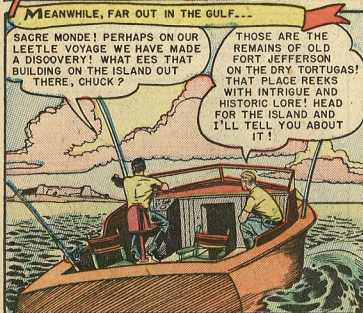
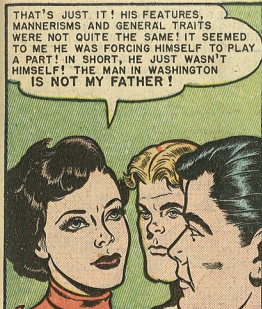
THAT HE HAD CHANGED COMPLETELY IN EVERY RESPECT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CHANGED? WAS IT A PHYSICAL CHANGE, SUCH AS ILLNESS OR PERHAPS TENSION CAN BRING TO A MAN WORKING UNDER STRESS?



NO! IT WENT MUCH DEEPER THAN THAT! I FELT... WELL, I FELT AS THOUGH A VAST GULF HAD COME BETWEEN US! I FELT AS THOUGH WE WERE STRANGERS AND HE WAS SOMEONE ELSE, NOT MY FATHER!

THAT'S INCREDIBLE! DID YOU RECOGNIZE HIM BY ANY CHARACTERISTIC SPEECH HABITS OR PERSONAL TRAITS?





NOM DU CHIEN! D-DO YOU SEE WH-WHAT I SEE, MON AMI?

Y-YES! THE BIGGEST DARNED TIGER SHARKS I'VE EVER S-SEEN! THEY'RE MAN-EATERS! I WONDER H-HOW THEY GOT HERE?



OKAY, TOURISTS! GET 'EM UP AN' KEEP 'EM THERE!

VOILA! ALL ZE SHARKS ARE NOT EEN ZE MOAT, EH, CHUCK? ZE VACATION EES OVER!



GET UNDER THEM AND LET'S START HOUSE CLEANING, ANDRE!

AVEC PLAISIR! PERHAPS THESE PEEGS THEENK THEY ARE STILL GUARDING ZE OLD FORT AGAINST BOTH ZE NORTH AND ZE SOUTH, EH?



FINISH 'EM UP AND LET'S TAKE OFF! HERE COME SOME OF THEIR PLAYMATES!

OUI! UNDER ZE CIRCUMSTANCES DISCRETION IS ZE BETTER PART OF VALOR!



TOO LATE, MON AMI! I DO NOT LIKE ZE IDEA OF RESEMBLING A SEIVE!

NEITHER DO I! LET'S WAIT FOR THEM TO TAKE US AND THEN TRY SOME HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING!



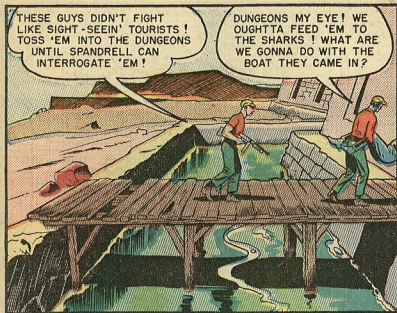
YOU GUYS DIDN'T HAVE TO STOP RUNNING! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER YOU'RE GOING TO WIND UP AS SHARK BAIT!

AH, WHAT AN IGNOBLE WAY TO DIE! H'ORS D'OEUVRES FOR A SHARK! TSK, TSK!



I DO NOT LIKE YOUR CHOICE OF MENUS, MON AMI!

MOW 'EM DOWN, MEN!



DUNGEONS MY EYE! WE OUGHTTA FEED 'EM TO THE SHARKS! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THE BOAT THEY CAME IN?



HALF AN HOUR LATER, IN THE VICINITY OF THE DRY TORTUGAS ---



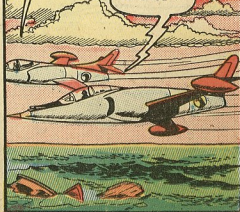
NOT YET, BLACKHAWK!

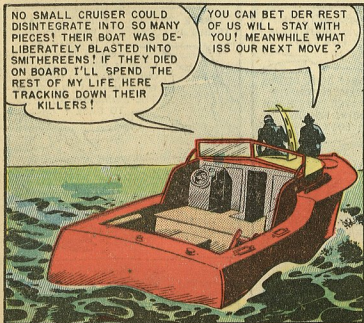
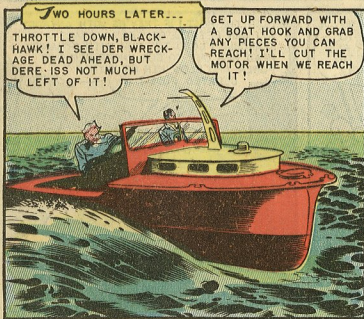
HENDRICKSON! DOWN THERE... ABOUT FOUR O'CLOCK LOW! DO YOU SEE IT?

YAH! SOME DEBRIS FLOATING ON THE WATER! LET'S GO DOWN FOR A LOOK!



I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT IT LOOKS... THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING! IT'S THE REMAINS OF A POWER LAUNCH SIMILAR TO THE ONE ANDRE AND CHUCK WERE USING! I'LL SIGNAL THE SQUADRON TO RETURN TO BASE!

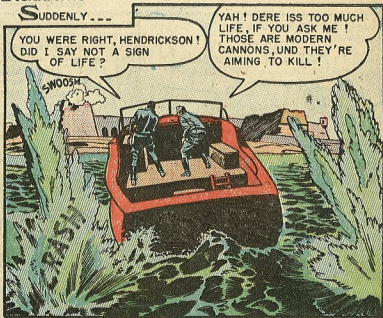
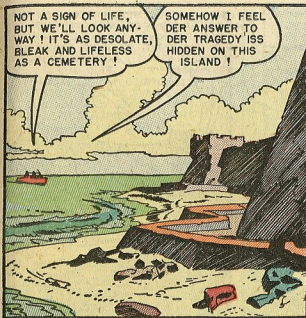




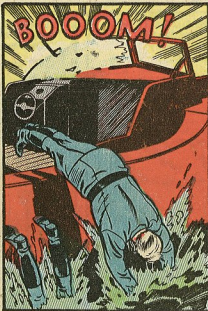
SUDDENLY ---

YOU WERE RIGHT, HENDRICKSON!
DID I SAY NOT A SIGN
OF LIFE?

YAH! DERE ISS TOO MUCH
LIFE, IF YOU ASK ME!
THOSE ARE MODERN
CANNONS, UND THEY'RE
AIMING TO KILL!



OUR ONLY HOPE
ISS TO DIVE
OVERBOARD AND
TRY TO REACH
DER ISLAND UNDER-
WATER! THEY'LL
THINK VE DIED IN
THE BLAST!



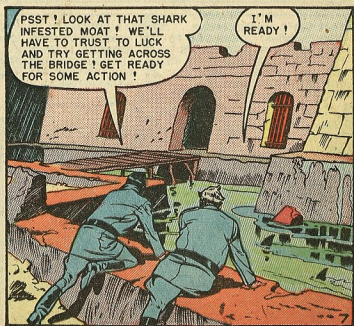
WITH LUNGS NEARING THE
BURSTING POINT, THE STEEL-
NERVED SWIMMERS STRUGGLE
DESPERATELY TO REACH
THEIR GOAL ---



AND AT THE PRECISE MOMENT WHEN HUMAN
ENDURANCE IS NEAR AN END ---



VE HAVE AN ADVANTAGE!
THEY MUST THINK VE DIED
ABOARD THE BOAT!



I'M
READY!

BLACKHAWK



MAKE IT FAST AND QUIET, HENDRICKSON!

YAH! COMMANDO TACTICS, EH?



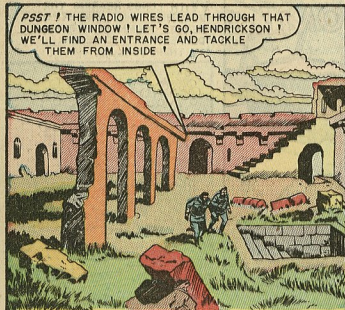
THIS IS THE FIRST INSTALLMENT YOU PAY FOR WHATEVER YOU DID TO OUR FRIENDS!

DIS FELLOW WON'T LIVE TO PAY DER SECOND INSTALLMENT!

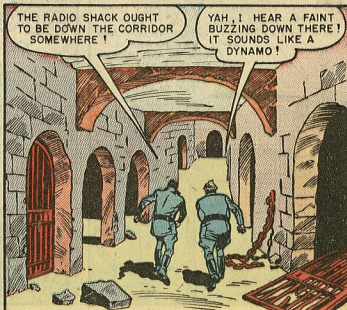


SO FAR, SO GOOD! THEY MUST BE GLOATING OVER THEIR MARKSMANSHIP AND NOT WATCHING THE BRIDGE HERE!

I NOTICED A SHORT AND LONG WAVE ANTENNA ON DER FORT! MAYBE VE KNOCK OUT THEIR COMMUNICATIONS FIRST, EH?



PSST! THE RADIO WIRES LEAD THROUGH THAT DUNGEON WINDOW! LET'S GO, HENDRICKSON! WE'LL FIND AN ENTRANCE AND TACKLE THEM FROM INSIDE!



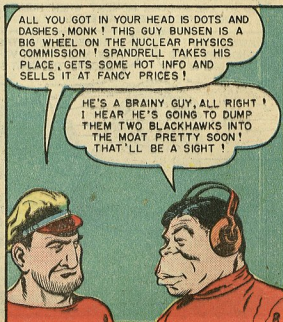
THE RADIO SHACK OUGHT TO BE DOWN THE CORRIDOR SOMEWHERE!

YAH, I HEAR A FAINT BUZZING DOWN THERE! IT SOUNDS LIKE A DYNAMO!



THAT GUY SPANDRELL IS A GENIUS, MONK! YOU OUGHT TO SEE THE LOOK ON BUNSEN'S FACE WHEN SPANDRELL WALKS IN DISGUISED AS BUNSEN! YOU'D THINK HE WAS SEEIN' HIMSELF IN A MIRROR!

I DON'T GET IT, CADE! WHAT GOOD IS IT DOIN' SPANDRELL TO MAKE UP LIKE BUNSEN AND SPEND ALL HIS TIME IN WASHINGTON?



ALL YOU GOT IN YOUR HEAD IS DOTS' AND DASHES, MONK! THIS GUY BUNSEN IS A BIG WHEEL ON THE NUCLEAR PHYSICS COMMISSION! SPANDRELL TAKES HIS PLACE, GETS SOME HOT INFO AND SELLS IT AT FANCY PRICES!

HE'S A BRAINY GUY, ALL RIGHT! I HEAR HE'S GOING TO DUMP THEM TWO BLACKHAWKS INTO THE MOAT PRETTY SOON! THAT'LL BE A SIGHT!

BLACKHAWK



IT'LL BE A SIGHT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO SEE !

THIS ISS FOR KEEPS, MY FRIEND !

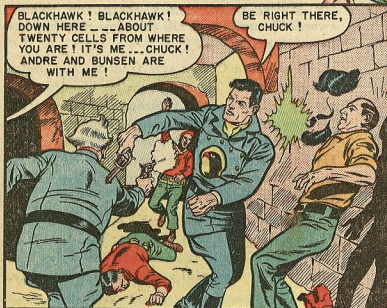
BLACKHAWK SQUADRON!
... BLACKHAWK SQUADRON! TAKE A FIX ON MY POSITION AND GET HERE IN A HURRY ! DRY TORTUGAS IS THE PLACE, AND COME IN SHOOTING! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE ! OVER !

BY YUPITER, WE BAN NEAR SPOT ALREADY ! THEY'RE SENDING ACK-ACK UP AT US, BUT WE FIX 'EM ! ROGER --- OUT !



WH...??! SHOOT THE DOGS DOWN !

YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY, SPANDRELL ! I WOULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU IF YOU HADN'T GIVEN THAT ORDER !



BLACKHAWK ! BLACKHAWK ! DOWN HERE ...ABOUT TWENTY CELLS FROM WHERE YOU ARE ! IT'S ME...CHUCK ! ANDRE AND BUNSEN ARE WITH ME !

BE RIGHT THERE, CHUCK !



AH, MON CHER AMI ! THANK GOODNESS YOU HAVE COME ! WE WERE TO BE FED TO ZE SHARKS AT ANY MOMENT !

GRAB ANY WEAPONS YOU CAN FIND AND FOLLOW ME ! THERE MUST BE A BATTLE ROYAL ON UP ABOVE ! OUR BOYS ARE ATTACKING THE FORT !



IT'LL BE ALL OVER IN A FEW MINUTES ! THE BOYS ARE MOPPING UP !

AND THAT NIGHT, A FEAST OF REJOICING ON MARQUESA KEY...



FOR THE SECOND TIME, I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU BLACKHAWKS ! I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED !

IT WAS A LUCKY COINCIDENCE THAT CHUCK AND ANDRE WENT ON THAT FISHING TRIP AND WE HAD TO LOOK FOR THEM ! OTHERWISE WE MIGHT HAVE HAD A ROUGH TIME FINDING YOU ! OUR NEXT VISIT TO DRY TORTUGAS WILL BE AS TOURISTS... I HOPE !

CURED By COURAGE

KEN CARSON woke in the dawn, with shrill laughter ringing in his ears. Before he opened his eyes, Ken Carson checked the sound off to imagination . . . probably his fever was back, stirring his blood and fogging his mind. He had come, years ago, to this tiny island of the Southern Seas to die. The doctors had said his health was shattered, his days numbered.

True, he'd lived somehow, there in the warm sun with sand and palms and sea. There was no need of clothes beyond his few old rags. And there was food to be picked from the trees or hooked out of the waves. But he was sick, he had been getting sicker. Perhaps his present attack would be the last.

Then he sat up in his palm-leaf shelter. His open eyes must be affected too. For he saw men on his once deserted island. They were swarthy little men swarming onto the beach. Behind them were their landing boats and, out to sea, a giant destroyer that flew no flag. It was all very clear for a fever dream.

The swarthy men ringed themselves around a figure that stood a whole head above them, a rugged man with rumpled black hair and a square-jawed tanned face. Criss-crossed ropes bound him fast.

One of the jeering crowd looked derisively up into the face of the captive. "You wonder why we keep you alive?" Ken Carson heard the snarling question. "Because your friends with the World Peace Commission saw us capture you when your plane was shot down, Jeff Barlow, and they fear to attack us lest their shots kill you. They think we keep you aboard the destroyer. But now . . . out of their sight . . . unless you give us the information we want . . . you are going to die."

The bound man laughed. His laugh was deep and harsh.

"You traitors to the cause of peace have threatened me before," he replied, "and I have escaped from you before. I shall not reveal any information to you dogs."

"You might have been fortunate in eluding us in the past," said the leader of the swarthy

men, "but this time your luck has run out."

The man called Jeff Barlow grinned wider and harder. "Get a mirror," he taunted. "Take a good look at your face. Because you're going to lose face . . . plenty . . . and you may wonder what you looked like."

A snarling curse rang out, and the leader of the horde struck at the captive. Barlow ducked his head quickly. The blow wasted itself on empty air.

"Fasten him to the palm tree yonder," ordered the leader, brandishing a sharp and shining sword. "I myself will kill this close-mouthed believer in peace."

All this Ken Carson saw from his bed under the palm leaves. The rough shelter blended with nearby foliage and his presence was undetected. Now he put out a thin hand, cautiously burrowed at the rear of the hut, and crept out behind. He had long waited for death, but he had no wish to meet it violently. Crouching deep among the bushes, he listened.

"Captain Kino," a swarthy man was saying, "I am a scholar. I read the stars. This devil Barlow is fated to die at noon, not dawn. Let him wait and grow fearful as the hours wear away.

"You believe in the stars," said the officer loftily, "but I believe in world conquest by force. Now I will kill swiftly."

Carson crept closer among the bushes. He knew who Jeff Barlow was. The frame of the World Peace Commission and its work had penetrated even to his remote, seldom-visited island. His decrepit radio had broadcast news of the Peace Commission's activities. And once a passing canoe of natives had chanted songs honoring Jeff Barlow. Carson, who expected to die at any moment, did not feel that rugged, healthy, young Barlow should die for years. At least, not at the hands of these diabolical tyrants.

He stooped and picked up two coconuts. For all his frailty, Carson could throw straight and hard. As Captain Kino bore down on the bound and helpless Barlow, Carson hurled both nuts in quick succession.

The first struck the fist that held the sword

and the officer dropped it with a shrill yelp . . . a yelp that died abruptly when the second nut smote his temple and sent him spinning. There was a jabber of consternation and soon the others rushed forward to aid their felled commander.

Jeff Barlow, forgotten for the moment, had acted. The sword had sailed through the air toward him. Although both his hands were tethered at the wrists, he managed to catch the flying sword's hilt with his right hand. Furiously straining, he brought the keen edge against his bonds. They fell away before its sharp blade and Jeff Barlow stepped away from the palm tree, free and armed.

The first of his enemies to be aware of this shouted a curse and raised his rifle into firing position. Barlow did not wait for him to touch the trigger. He sprang in and with a great, drawing slash knocked the rifle from his opponent's hands. Before the others could gather their wits about them he floored a second man with a mighty punch and then a third. With quick backward leaps, he then retreated into the bushes.

"In here, Barlow! In here!" called Carson softly. Barlow plunged into the thicket beside him. The two fell flat and rolled deeper into the cover of the bush. Moving on all fours and beckoning him to do the same, Carson led him away. Rifle bullets ripped the leaves where they had been.

"Thanks for saving me, friend," whispered Barlow.

"You saved yourself," replied Carson, panting. "I . . . I'm not well. The exercise, it's too much for me . . . doctors told me I'd die if . . ."

"Breathe deeply," Barlow advised. "Relax and take in all the oxygen you can hold. Who are you?"

Carson told him. He spoke also of how he had fallen ill, had come to this peaceful island to die. "And my first impulse, when I saw that band of tyrants, was to hide," he finished. "Yet I'm doomed anyway. And you . . . perhaps will escape and use your strength against them . . ."

"We'll both escape," Barlow said. "Climb this rocky bluff behind us."

"I can't," moaned Carson. "I told you I was sick."

"Climb," bade Barlow and himself pushed Carson upward to grasp at the vines and ledges of the bluff. A moment later the two were scrambling upward. Yells greeted them. The swarthy men had seen them. Some shots rang out, but Barlow and Carson gained the upper ledge, unharmed, and lay flat behind a great balanced boulder.

"Dynamite and caps!" cried an officer, second-

in-command to the one who had been knocked out. "We'll get them both!"

"And they will," said Carson. "Just below us is a cave. Dynamite in that will smash this whole bluff . . ."

"They said caps for the dynamite," reminded Barlow. "If something should hit those caps and set off the dynamite before it gets into the cave . . . Look, here they come below us. Help me push this rock loose."

"I say I can't!" Carson protested.

"I say you can." Barlow had risen, crouching into a tense, brawny surge of power against the rock. "Push, push like I'm doing. Get your back into it, man. Hard! Harder . . ."

This exertion would kill him Carson felt. But he put the thought from him and heaved. The rock stirred, toppled. . . .

It was off the ledge, crashing downward. And then he and Barlow were flat on the ledge that heaved and creaked like the deck of a ship, while the world-filling thunder of a mighty explosion came up from below.

"It got them!" cried Barlow, looking down. "Got them just outside the cave!"

"Listen!" said Carson, and more distant explosions echoed.

Planes were buzzing over the destroyer like angry bees. Bombs were falling. A hit, another, then another. The destroyer, bursting with internal fires, began to sink in shattered chunks. The planes banked in toward the flat sand of the beach.

"Come, on, Carson," said Barlow. "Down to the shore. My friends have arrived."

They ran like deer down to the beach to welcome the men who emerged from the planes marked with the insignia of the World Peace Commission. Out to sea, there was only a mass of wreckage. The only swarthy men on shore were dead, killed by their own dynamite.

"Meet my friend, Ken Carson," Barlow was saying. "He saved me and helped me wipe out this shore party. Carson, you look like a million dollars."

"And I . . . feel like a million!" cried Carson. "Barlow, the exertion should have killed me, but I . . . I'm well again! You've cured me by a miracle."

Barlow slapped his shoulder. "No miracle. You've been getting well, here in the sun and the open air, for a long time. But you thought you were sick and you never forgot that . . . until this adventure. Come back to civilization with us, there are a thousand ways you can help to fight for world peace."

And Carson, straightening his shoulders, looked back only once as he climbed aboard the plane with his new-found friends.

A SURE-FIRE HIT!

The October issue of

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Pages



In this issue-

PLASTIC MAN

*In the case of The
COLD-BLOODED COUNTERFEITER!*

THE SPIRIT

FAMED CRIME FIGHTER!

THE COP THEY COULDN'T LICK

TWO FISTED DEALER OF JUSTICE!

JEB RIVERS

ADVENTURE ON THE MISSISSIPPI!

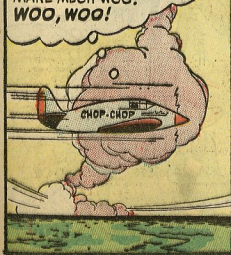
CHOP CHOP



IS GLEAT
PLEASURE
TO BE PIRATE!
AM ABOUT TO LOSE
HEAD OVER PLETTY
CAPTAIN KATE!

HE'LL LOSE
HIS HEAD, ALL
RIGHT... ONLY
NOT THE WAY
HE THINKS!

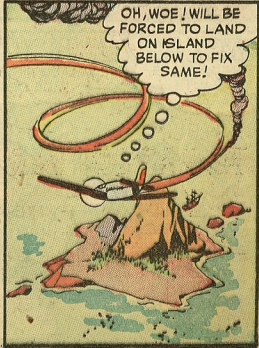
CHOP CHOP TAKING MUCH
NEEDED VACATION FLOM
BLACKHAWK ISLAND! OFF TO
CHINA TO SEE GIRL FRIEND,
LOTUS BLOSSOM! WILL
MAKE MUCH WOO!
WOO, WOO!



CAN TRAVEL FAST IN
HOPPED-UP PLANE!
ALREADY HUNDLES OF
MILES FLOM... **UH,**
UH! BIG PLINK
MEAN ENGINE
ON BLINK!



OH, WOE! WILL BE
FORCED TO LAND
ON ISLAND
BELOW TO FIX
SAME!





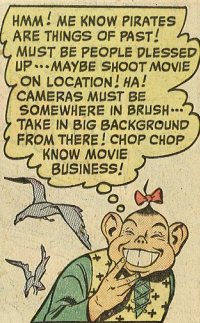
VELLY SMALL TROUBLE! CAN FIX FAST LIKE WINK!

BLASTED INTRUDER! WE'LL PUT AN END TO HIM IN A HURRY!



AM NOW LEADY TO CONTINUE TRIP TO SEE LOTUS BLOSSOM AND---HUH? PIRATES!

NO LUBBER LANDS HERE AND LIVES TO TELL ABOUT IT! GUNS READY, MEN?



HMM! ME KNOW PIRATES ARE THINGS OF PAST! MUST BE PEOPLE DRESSED UP---MAYBE SHOOT MOVIE ON LOCATION! HA! CAMERAS MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN BRUSH---TAKE IN BIG BACKGROUND FROM THERE! CHOP CHOP KNOW MOVIE BUSINESS!



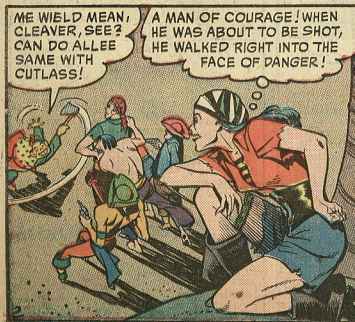
YOU'VE FOUND OUR LOCATION! WE'RE GOING TO SHOOT!

OH, JOY! AM RIGHT!...IS MOVIE COMPANY! MAYBE CAN GET ON SCREEN AND MAKE BIG HIT WITH LOTUS BLOSSOM!



VELLY SOLLY TO INTERRUPT SHOOTING BUT WANT TO APPLY FOR JOB! ME MAKE GOOD PIRATE, MAYBE, HUH?

HUH?



ME WIELD MEAN, CLEAVER, SEE? CAN DO ALLEE SAME WITH CUTLASS!

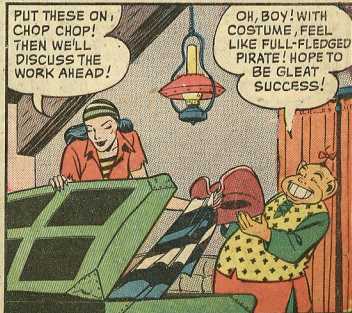
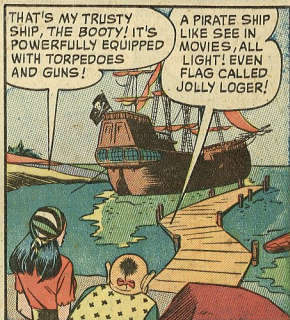
A MAN OF COURAGE! WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO BE SHOT, HE WALKED RIGHT INTO THE FACE OF DANGER!

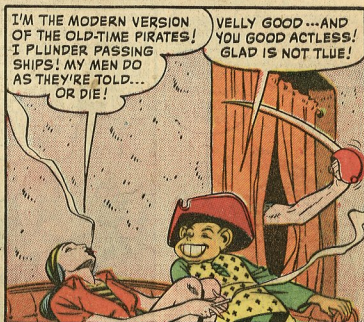


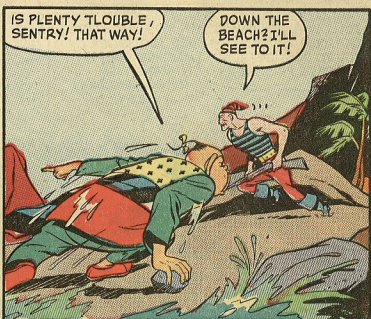
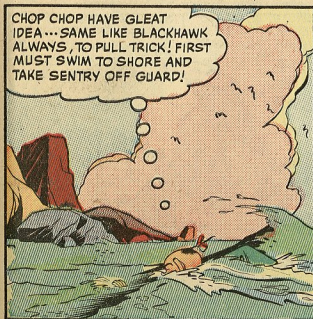
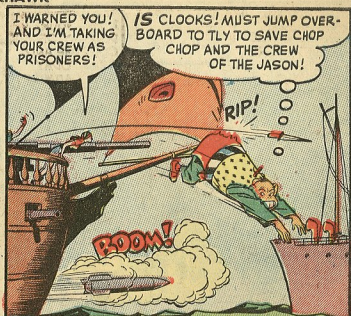
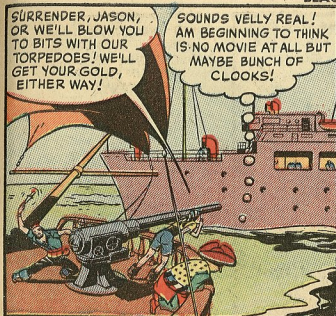
WOULD ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATE LOAN OF GUN TO SHOW SKILL WITH FIRE-ARMS!

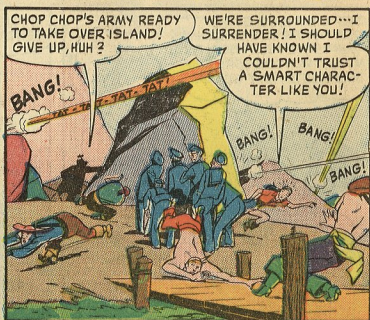
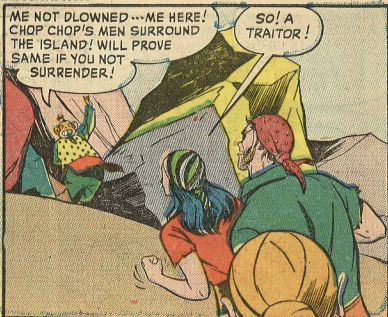
WHY, YOU...

HOW CLEVERLY HE ARMED HIMSELF! HE USES HIS WITS!

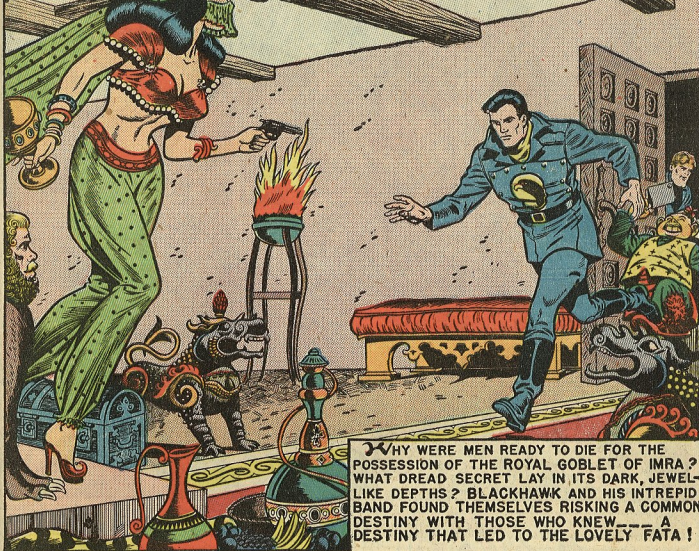








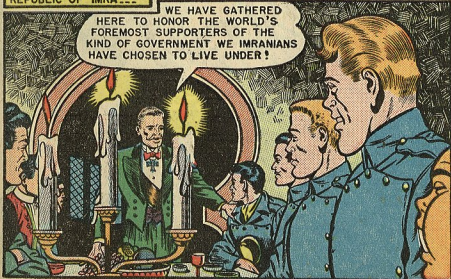
BLACKHAWK



WHY WERE MEN READY TO DIE FOR THE POSSESSION OF THE ROYAL GOBLET OF IMRA? WHAT DREAD SECRET LAY IN ITS DARK, JEWEL-LIKE DEPTHS? BLACKHAWK AND HIS INTREPID BAND FOUND THEMSELVES RISKING A COMMON DESTINY WITH THOSE WHO KNEW... A DESTINY THAT LED TO THE LOVELY FATA!

A BANQUET AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT THE NEWLY FORMED REPUBLIC OF IMRA...

WE HAVE GATHERED HERE TO HONOR THE WORLD'S FOREMOST SUPPORTERS OF THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT WE IMIRANIANS HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE UNDER!



PARBLEU, BLACKHAWK, A WAITRESS LOVELY AS THIS ONE I HAVE NEVER SEEN! BUT WEETH SUCH A FIGURE, SUCH A SKIN, SURELY IT IS A SHAME TO CONCEAL HALF ZE FACE WEETH A MASK!

AN ODD COUNTRY, ANDRE! A STRANGE MIXTURE OF CRUELTY AND KINDNESS! THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS LET MANY ARISTOCRATS REMAIN AS MENIALS AND THEY ARE PERMITTED TO CONCEAL THEIR IDENTITIES!



BLACKHAWK

ONLY A SHORT YEAR AGO THESE GALLANT FIGHTERS HELPED US ACHIEVE A NEW HAPPINESS IN OUR FAIR LAND... AND AS PRESIDENT OF IMRA I NOW WISH TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE BLACKHAWKS!



NOT WITH AN ORDINARY GOBLET TO GENTLEMEN SO DISTINGUISHED, YOUR EXCELLENCY! THIS ONE IS MORE FITTING!



ALLOW ME, YOUR EXCELLENCY!

EVERYBODY SUDDENLY LOOK VELL UNHAPPY! MAYBE WINE VELL BAD VINTAGE!



NO! YOU WOULDN'T DARE DRINK FROM THAT!

YOUR VERY TOUCH WOULD DESECRATE IT!

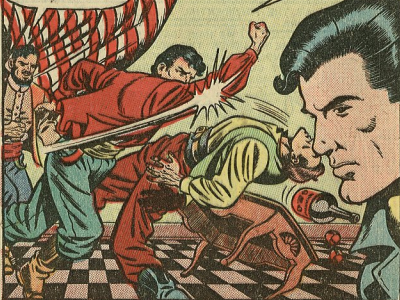
IT IS THE ROYAL GOBLET OF IMRA!



IF YOU LAY A HAND ON THE PRESIDENT...

ROTTEN ROYALISTS! HOW COULD WE EVER HAVE BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE JOINING US IN GOOD FAITH!

FILTHY REPUBLICANS! KILL THEM!



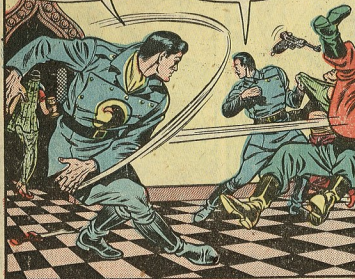
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO JOIN THIS BRAWL, BLACKHAWK?

I DON'T THINK SO, CHUCK! YOU MIGHT CALL IT A FAMILY AFFAIR!

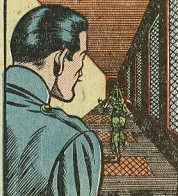


IF YOU FELLOWS ONLY
WEREN'T SO HOT-
HEADED ABOUT THIS,
WE MIGHT FIND-OUT
HOW IT HAPPENED!

AH! THE FAIR ONE WHO CAUSED ZE
TROUBLE! PERHAPS SHE WEEEL
TELL ME WHY AND AT ZE SAME
TIME WE CAN GET BETTER
ACQUAINTED!



SACRE! SHE MOVES FAST!
SHE WANTS VERY MUCH
TO GET AWAY!



MY EYES PLAY TRICKS
ON ME! ONE MOMENT
I SAW HER! THEN,
VOILA... SHE IS
GONE!



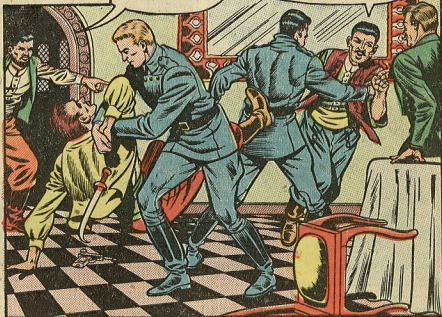
MEANWHILE ---

THE ROYAL GOBLET
--- IT'S GONE!

THE PRESIDENT... THE REPUBLICAN
FILTH... IT'S ANOTHER
OF HIS BLASPHEMIES!



OH!

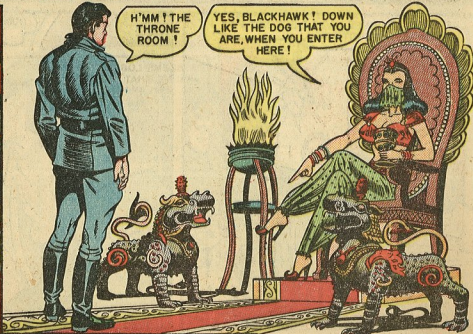


WAIT! DON'T BE FOOLS! I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF LETTING YOU HARM
HIS EXCELLENCY, SO YOU MAY
AS WELL MAKE UP YOUR
MINDS TO RELAX!



IT SEEMS LOGICAL TO
ASSUME THAT THE SAME
GIRL WHO BROUGHT THE
ROYAL GOBLET HERE
SPIRITED IT AWAY!
IF ANYONE HAS
DESECRATED THE
GOBLET, IT IS
SHE!





HARSH WORDS COMING FROM A WAITRESS WHO PRESUMES TO SIT ON THE ROYAL THRONE! THE ROYALISTS WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF THEY HAPPENED TO DROP IN!

FOOL! HOW LITTLE YOU KNOW! THEY WOULD LIKE IT VERY MUCH! IT WOULD BE THE PERFECT ENDING TO A WONDERFUL EVENING OF SLAUGHTER --- SLAUGHTER OF THOSE REPUBLICAN UPSTARTS!



YOU SEEM CONVINCED THAT THEY'VE ACCOMPLISHED THAT BY NOW!

HOW CAN THEY FAIL WITH THE PROVOCATION I HAVE GIVEN THEM? AND I WILL, PERSONALLY, TAKE CARE OF THE MISTAKE THEY MADE IN YOUR CASE!



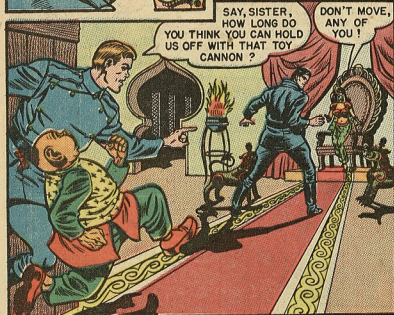
I SHALL ENJOY THIS VERY MUCH BLACKHAWK!

'SORRY I CAN'T SAY THE SAME!



SAY, SISTER, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HOLD US OFF WITH THAT TOY CANNON?

DON'T MOVE, ANY OF YOU!



REPUBLICANS... ALIVE! THEN THE ROYALISTS WERE NOT AROUSED ENOUGH TO DO THEIR DUTY!

THE SAME VILE FEMALE WHO BROUGHT THE ROYAL GOBLLET DARES TO SIT ON THE ROYAL THRONE!

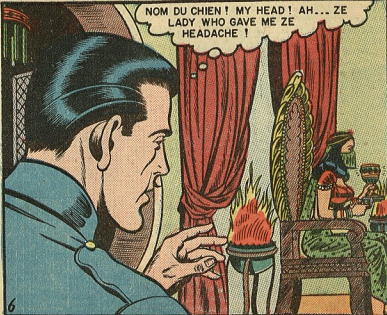
KILL HER!



AND HE... EVEN HE LIVES! BUT NOT FOR LONG! HE'LL DIE WITH YOU, BLACKHAWK!



NOM DU CHIEN! MY HEAD! AH... ZE LADY WHO GAVE ME ZE HEADACHE!





QUEEN FATA!

I THINK I HAD THAT FIGURED OUT A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE YOU DID, GENTLEMEN! HER MAJESTY HINTED AT IT! BUT YOU CAN SEE HOW GOOD A THING WAS THE BATTLE WE FOUGHT AGAINST HER ONLY A YEAR AGO!



THE ROYAL GOBLET --- DESTROYED!

YOU CAN SEE TO WHAT FENISH LENGTHS SHE WOULD GO TO SET OFF THE BLOODSHED THAT WOULD BRING HER BACK TO POWER --- HOW LITTLE THE ROYAL GOBLET MEANT TO HER WHILE IT MEANT SO MUCH TO YOU!



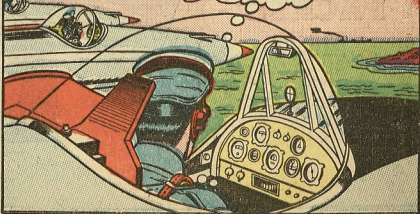
BE THAT AS IT MAY, YOUR MAJESTY, I WILL BE GLAD TO ESCORT YOU OUT OF THE COUNTRY INTO EXILE ... IF THE PRESIDENT WILL AGREE!

THANK YOU, BLACKHAWK! THAT WILL BE BEST! THIS INCIDENT MAY HAVE BROKEN THE HEARTS OF THE ROYALISTS --- BUT WITH YOUR AID IT HAS ALSO MADE THEM SEE THE LIGHT! I THINK WE WILL HAVE UNITY FROM NOW ON!



AND SO ... IN THE EARLY DAWN ...

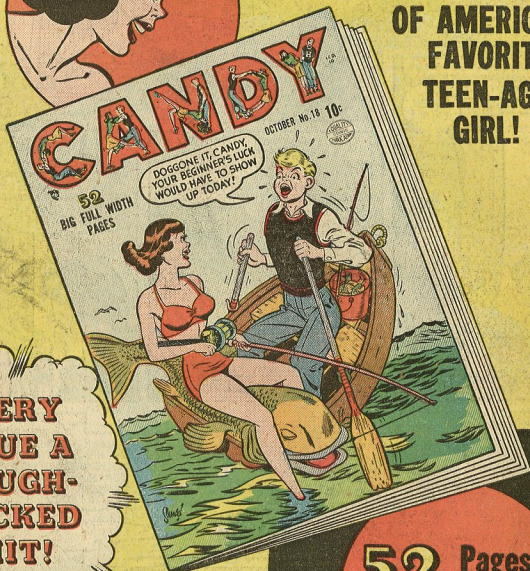
NOM DU COCHON! BLACKHAWK, HE DISLIKE FATA AND SHE DISLIKE HIM, YET THEY RIDE TOGETHER! ANDRE, HE HAS NOTHING AGAINST FATA PERSONALLY... ONLY HER POLITICS! YET HE RIDES ALONE! EET IS VERY ILLOGICAL!



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IT'S ONE SWELL GAME!
 I PLAY IT WITH MY BOY...
 WE GET A GREAT KICK
 OUT OF IT!

IT'S A
 HIT!

SMACK! RIGHT
 TO THE SWITCH MAZE.
 WATCH THE LIGHTS!

STEEL BALL ZIPS
 OVER THE PLATE

COLORFUL LIGHTS
 BEAM THE PLAYS

ELECTRIC BAT
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GOLLY! SHE'S PURRIN' LIKE A KITTEN! HOW'D YOU DO IT?

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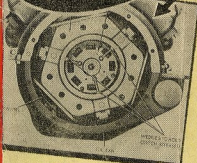
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